

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF NCIS

Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I ask the Senate to join me in honoring the Naval Criminal Investigative Service, or NCIS, as it celebrates 50 years of service in support of the Department of the Navy, its military and civilian personnel, their families, and the communities in which they live. I am proud to add my voice to those who applaud the consistent and effectual work of this elite organization.

NCIS has deep roots in our military history, dating back to 1882, when Secretary of the Navy William H. Hunt established the Office of Naval Intelligence, or ONI, to collect technical information on the world's major naval powers. Since that time, as the United States' role in the world evolved, the need for an elite and specialized investigative branch of ONI became apparent. The Naval Investigative Service, now called NCIS, was born and has fulfilled a vital role in mitigating threats and protecting our Nation.

Since then, NCIS has played a vital role in investigating and defeating threats to safety of our Navy and Marine Corps. The organization has grown to employ approximately 2,000 elite personnel and deploys to more than 150 locations around the globe. As such, the organization's broad, yet agile scope has enabled it to ensure the safety of our brave men and women, wherever they are stationed. Their missions have had such broad scope as deployment of special agents to Vietnam, response to the USS Cole and the September 11 terror attacks, and establishment of the Multiple Threat Alert Center for the Department of the Navy. NCIS has executed their duties with distinction and poise under the most strenuous circumstances.

I congratulate NCIS on 50 years of success as a premier Federal law enforcement agency. We owe them a debt of gratitude for the elite work they perform in service to our Nation, and I wish them continued success for years to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL FOOD AND BEVERAGE FOUNDATION

• Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, today I am honored to acknowledge the National Food and Beverage Foundation, an institute based in New Orleans and one that portrays the distinctive culture of Louisiana through its food and drink.

Louisiana is known for many things: its bald cypress swamps, Mardi Gras, and its delicious food. Louisiana's cuisine is as unique as the people who make it. From beignets to etouffee and jambalaya to gumbo, food is one of the many characteristics that make Louisiana culture so remarkable. The New Orleans branch of the National Food and Beverage Foundation, or NFBF

celebrates that culture through education and is home to the Southern Food and Beverage Museum, praised by CNN as one of the top 11 food museums in the entire world.

The National Food and Beverage Foundation is a tremendous example of a group of people using culinary practices to highlight Louisiana's culture while simultaneously enhancing the lives of the people around them. The NFBF has dedicated \$5 million for a project to develop one of New Orleans' communities. The project is designed to reestablish sections of New Orleans as a hub of culinary commerce and aid the community in reaching their economic potential. NFBF is also dedicated to education, as evidenced by the John & Bonnie Hospitality and Culinary Library, and to providing free cooking classes for children. The library contains over 17,000 volumes and houses culinary and mixology literature from across the globe. The foundation's Culinary Entrepreneurship Program, a program that aids small businesses, restaurant startups, and product manufacturers, helps young businesses get off the ground. This program and programs like them are invaluable to small businesses throughout Louisiana.

The National Food and Beverage Foundation celebrates and encourages Louisiana culture, but it also celebrates cultures through cuisine nationwide. The NFBF is rapidly expanding across the country; Pacific Food and Beverage is based in Los Angeles and celebrates the culture of food and drink of the Pacific coast and the American West. Specifically, Pacific Food and Beverage focuses on contributions made by immigrants who have shaped our Nation's cuisine. Knowing firsthand how important food is to our culture, the preservation of culinary practices and history throughout our country is a crucial endeavor.

I want to thank the National Food and Beverage Foundation for all the work it has done with communities in my State and throughout the Nation to preserve and enhance the idea of culture through culinary means. From free children's cooking classes that teach the heritage and nutritional aspects of healthy food, to the Culinary Entrepreneurship Program, NFBF has made a tremendous contribution to Louisiana and the culture loved by so many. I am proud to have such a tremendous initiative in my State, one that explores something so embedded in the Louisiana culture and gives back to the community while doing so. I wish the National Food and Beverage Foundation nothing but successes now and in the future.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. CONNIE ADLER AND ELIZABETH WARD SAXL

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, I wish to honor two remarkable women, Dr. Connie Adler and Elizabeth Ward Saxl, who are new inductees to the Maine

Women's Hall of Fame. Through their induction, we celebrate the tremendous impact that these women have on their communities and on women throughout the State of Maine.

Dr. Connie Adler, from Woolwich, ME, currently serves as secretary of the board of directors of Franklin Memorial Hospital in Farmington, as well as on the boards of the Maine Health Access Foundation and Maine Family Planning. During her illustrious career, she has played a leading role in the pursuit of reproductive rights and the prevention of domestic violence. She has also established programs to increase access to health care for women living in rural and impoverished areas. Connie's work has been integral to keeping our communities healthy and safe.

Elizabeth Ward Saxl, from Vassalboro, ME, has served as the executive director of the Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault for the last 16 years. She is a passionate advocate for joining public policy solutions with community-based approaches that address the complex problems impacting Maine's women and girls. Undertaking daunting projects like eliminating statute of limitations on child sexual abuse and creating housing protections for victims of sexual assault, Elizabeth has been a champion of abuse victims across the State. Her work also extends to immigrant, refugee, elder, and native populations, making her a valuable asset to all of Maine's marginalized populations.

Congratulations to both Connie and Elizabeth for their induction into the Maine Women's Hall of Fame. With this well-deserved honor, they join the likes of Senator Margaret Chase Smith as shining examples of character and fortitude. I thank Connie and Elizabeth for all that they have done for Maine women and for our State as a whole. Maine is fortunate to have such tireless advocates fighting for health, safety, and prosperity.●

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF ATLANTIC REGIONAL FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Atlantic Regional Federal Credit Union. This nonprofit institution has a long history of serving the people of Maine, and I am proud to add my voice to those in our grateful State in recognizing this milestone.

In 1941, Atlantic Regional Federal Credit Union began as St. John's FCU, with just 37 members, in the town of Brunswick. Strong leadership and steadfast dedication to community service has enabled it to become one of the largest credit unions in our State and a bedrock of a thriving Maine midcoast. This truly impressive and steady growth was only possible through a tireless commitment to good service and sound business ethics.

Through fundraising, scholarships, donations, and volunteering, Atlantic